

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A mask covering at least the nose and mouth of a wearer, said mask ~~comprised~~ substantially-consisting essentially of filtering media for filtering air to the wearer;

~~Said-said~~ mask having an area approximately over the mouth of the wearer that can be opened and closed at will without removing the mask;

~~Said-said~~ area selected from the group consisting of:

- a. an opening covered by elastic or flexible material; ~~and~~
- b. ~~an area of~~ elastic or flexible material that is self-closing;
- c. an elastic or flexible flap over a hole or aperture;
- d. a detachable flexible or elastic patch over a hole or aperture; and
- e. an aperture or hole which is self-opening and self-closing,

~~Said~~ said area being constructed such that ~~it~~ said area opens when a device is inserted into the area and closes when the device is removed therefrom.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 19 wherein the area that can be opened or closed at will comprises a hole or aperture covered with touching or overlapping pieces of elastic or flexible material.

22. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 19 wherein the area that can be opened and closed at will comprises a hole or aperture covered with a flap made of elastic or flexible material attached to the mask.

23. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 19 wherein the area that can be opened and closed at will is formed of an elastic or flexible self-closing material over a hole or aperture.

24. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 19 further comprising attachments to maintain the mask in place on a wearer.

25. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 19 wherein the area that can be opened and closed at will comprises a hole or aperture which is covered by a

flexible or elastic removable patch which can be re-affixed to the mask.

26. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 19 which substantially covers the wearer's head.

27. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 19 which is made of a flexible material.

28. (Currently Amended) The mask according to claim 19 wherein ~~the aperture or hole~~said area approximately over the mouth of the wearer is ~~self-opening and self-closing~~.